

the  
**ARROW**

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Volume 46 Issue 4



Summer  
**IS NOT**  
an EXCUSE

# Summer IS NOT an EXCUSE

Pastor Karl Sexton

*Dear Pastor,*

*You often stress attendance at worship as being very important for a Christian, but I think a person has a right to miss now and then. I think every person ought to be excused for the following reasons and the number of times indicated:*

Christmas (Sunday before or after)	1
New Year's (party lasted too long)	1
Easter (get away for the holidays)	1
July 4 (national holiday)	1
Labor Day (need to get away)	1
Memorial Day (visit hometown)	1
School closing (kids need a break)	1
School opens (one last fling)	1
Family reunions (mine and wife's)	2
Sleep late (saturday night activities)	4
Deaths in family	4
Anniversary (second honeymoon)	1
Sickness (one for each family member)	5
Business trips (a must)	3
Vacation (3 weeks)	3
Bad weather (ice, snow, rain, clouds)	6
Ball games	5
Unexpected company (can't walk out)	5
Time changes (spring ahead; fall back)	2
Special on TV (Super Bowl, etc.)	3

*Pastor, that leaves only two Sundays per year. So, you can count on us to be in church on the fourth Sunday in February and the third Sunday in August unless providentially hindered.*

*Sincerely,*

*Faithful Member*

*--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited  
(Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988)*

# W

ell, it is hard to believe that summer has arrived. I just took a walk through the school and everyone is talking about getting out of school and what they are going to do this summer. It is time for summer break, vacations, family reunions and a interlude from the monotony of the school year. I think it is good for every family to have a special time together and for everyone to take a little break. I urge our families to take family vacations. Even our Lord got away from the crowds to a place of seclusion from time to time.

However, let me remind you that the devil never takes a vacation. The devil does not take a summer break. So, let me encourage you not to let your guard down in these summer months. Too often we justify careless actions because it is summer, or we are away from home. Remember, right is right and wrong is wrong regardless of the season of the year or geographical location. We must uphold Christ's standards everywhere and at all times. We cannot afford to let our guard down just because it is summer.

While taking your summer break, be sure not to take a break from the following:

## Doing Right

I am referring to talking right, dressing right, going to the right kind of places, hanging out with the right kind of people, listening to the right kind of music and keeping the right attitude.

## Devotional Time

Your walk with the Lord must be a daily practice. None of us can afford a break from our time with the Lord. You can spend time with Him even on vacation. Read your Bible daily and spend time with Him in prayer.

## Witnessing

Some people think they can only witness on church visitation. Real soul winners talk about Jesus wherever they are. During the summer, you will meet folks you normally do not see. Do not fail to tell them about Jesus.

## Faithful to the House of God

Miss services at your home church as little as possible. If you have to be gone over the weekend, attend a good, Bible-preaching church where you are and take your family and friends with you. It is a good time to introduce unsaved and unchurched family and friends to a Gospel-preaching church. Remain faithful to God and God's house wherever you are.

Be able to look back over your summer and give God the glory. Let's not begin our fall with summer regrets. The summer gives you a great opportunity to live for God and be a witness for Him. May all of us have a Spirit-led, Christ-honoring summer!

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## July

Summer Bible School on Wednesday Nights

- 1 Saints Alive 4:00 P.M.
- 3 God and Country Day
- 7 Mommy & Me
- 14 GLM "Kids 'N Us" with Phyllis Bass  
*A practical, comical, and biblical approach to child care*
- 16 Ladies Breakfast at IHOP
- 31 Watermelon Social *after the evening service*

## August

Summer Bible School on Wednesday Nights

- 4 Mommy & Me
- 8-11 VBS 6:30-8:30 P.M.
- 4-5 Church Directory Picture Sitings  
*Call church office to make an appointment*
- 12-13 God's Man Conference New Bern, NC
- 18 GLM "Sweet Tooth Throwdown"  
*Sharing the art of cake decoration*
- 18 Mommy & Me
- 20 Ladies Breakfast at Lynnhaven Cracker Barrel
- 28 Ice Cream Social *after the evening service*

### Gateway Ladies Ministry

The GLM activities continue to be a blessing for our ladies. Breakfast fellowships have grown with all different ages enjoying great food and fellowship! Those attending the Strands of Pearls Mother-Daughter Banquet were blessed as Shiya Robin shared her testimony of God's grace. Our first ever Swap, Shop and Save was also a great success when Christin Fingleton taught us how to use the internet and newspapers for great savings. Join us this summer for more encouragement and fellowship.

### Children's Ministry

VBS and SBS will include crafts, Bible stories, snacks, games, and more as we explore the waves of *Sonsurf*.

### Iron Men Ministry

With 46 in attendance, the May 21, Iron Men's Breakfast was a blessing. Bro. Daniel Webster challenged us to "Lead and not Lord" our families. We are excited about what God is doing in the hearts of our men.

### Sunday School

We exceeded our attendance goal in Sunday School this year. Our A Sunday School averaged 439 and B Sunday School averaged 253—five more than our goal. Let's keep up the good work and invite others to study God's Word.

### Fall Youth Sports

Registration for Kindergarten-Grade 6 will begin in August. Military scholarships are available. Evaluations will be September 15th and 17th. Get your elementary children get involved in an encouraging and fun atmosphere of sports. For more information contact Bro. Joey at [jmccreight@gatewayfwb.org](mailto:jmccreight@gatewayfwb.org).

### Baby Congratulations

Joe and Destini Bailey on the birth of their daughter Ayla Jewel Bailey

### Christian Sympathy

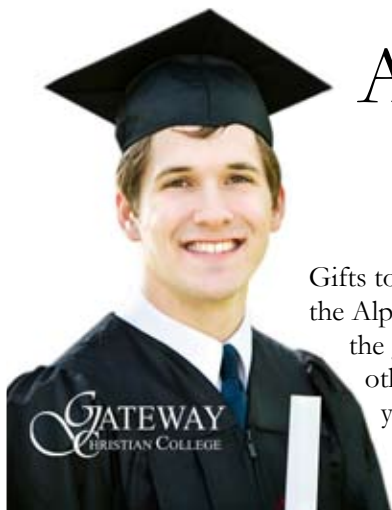
to the family of Kurt Duffney, the family of Mrs. Veretta Leach

### New Members

Les, Bobbie, and Sarah Banks; Joshua Bullard; Virginia Eckley; Baylea Freeman; Brenda Garcia; Allan Harwood; Taylor Heintz; Celena Smith; Susan & Weldon Whitehurst; Shelby Wright; Courtney Wright

### Recently Baptized

Crystal Johnson, Dessire Johnson, Janice Johnson, Shay Parker, Steven Tabisz, Jesse Travella, Victoria Travella, Weldon Whitehurst



# ALPHA-OMEGA SCHOLARSHIP

*Helping students today & tomorrow!*

Gifts to this scholarship will be divided equally: the first half goes immediately into the Alpha Fund as a scholarship during the next academic year; the second half of the gift goes into the Omega Fund where it accrues interest with the gifts of others as a lasting gift over the years. At the beginning of the next academic year, the interest from the Omega Fund is transferred for scholarship distribution along with the Alpha Fund.

# Parents

Tim McCreight



Normally, I use this article to address young people and the important issues they face in the turbulent teenage years. However, this time I want to address a slightly different audience—the Parents. If you are the parent of a high school graduate this year, you know that your son or daughter has been asked a million times, “What are you going to do with your life now?” This important question really never arises until this time in life.

With that being said, Parents, I hope you are as involved in answering this question as your child is. It is not wise for parents to leave their teenager to make the important life decisions on their own. You should be involved in their decision-making process as much as possible by discussing with them what they feel God wants them to do and where they plan to prepare for this calling.

As a parent myself, I am also faced with helping to prepare my young children for their future life’s work and ministry. I desire for all three of them to go to Christian college to further their education. By attending a

Christian college, they will be in an environment that is conducive to making godly decisions that will impact the rest of their lives.

Parents, many of you have worked and sacrificed to get your son or daughter to where they are right now. Please do not lose the battle at the very end by relinquishing your God-given responsibility to direct them even after high school. They need your godly influence and input in this challenging time in life. Instead of backing off, lovingly guide them to their fullest potential and to God’s perfect will for them. You will not be disappointed in the eternal results!

## Genuine Relationships

Joseph R. McCreight

The greatest experience any Christian family can have is the joy of seeing God use them to impact others. Unfortunately, we consistently battle the willingness to use our family’s time, money and agenda to invest in others. Many choose the easy road of artificial smiles and surface relationships because our schedules and agendas cannot tolerate any extra interruptions or changes. However, Jesus’ call is the exact opposite. He challenged us to lose our lives (agendas), give ourselves to others, and invest in something that matters. Abandoning self frees us to build relationships for God’s purposes.

**Jesus used relationships  
to win people.**

**Mark 2:15-16** And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many

publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him. And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?

Jesus was accused of eating with the publicans and sinners. Eating a meal in that day was a befriending act. The Pharisees knew when they saw Jesus sitting at the table His intent was to befriend them.

Most true soul-winning is not done apart from real relationships. Christians all across America scratch their head in confusion wondering why we aren’t reaching the lost, but the real question should be what are we doing to build relationships with the lost? When was the last time you had an unsaved family over to eat with the purpose of evangelism? Imagine what would happen if church families across our

nation were willing to surrender at least one night a month to evangelism.

**Jesus used relationships  
to disciple believers.**

**Matthew 12:48-49** But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

Literally, Jesus spent His life with the disciples. He befriended each of them and surrendered His life to invest in them. When He was asked about it, Jesus called his disciples His family.

Those we surrender our time, money and agendas to disciple become our family. True discipleship is not done on a mass basis, but individually. So much can be accomplished in a one-on-one and family-on-family situation. The cost is a surrender of time, money, and even personal agendas, but the prize is genuine discipleship.

## Psalm 119

Daniel Webster

“good thing  
Psalm 119  
doesn’t say  
Thy Word is  
a cell phone  
unto my  
feet...”



**A** few months ago, on my way to a class, I stopped to grab a book that I left on the stage in the church auditorium. If you’ve ever been in there with no lights on, it’s dark... very dark... and this morning was no exception. As is my usual habit, I used my cell phone to light my path. The back light turns off after 15 seconds which leaves me with a dim glow, unless I decide to shut and reopen the phone – I didn’t this time. I know the stage very well. I contributed to its design during the renovation and I am on the stage on a daily basis. The light of my phone dimmed after I found the book and I continued across the stage to head down the steps. In our sanctuary we do not have kneeling bench style altars as some do, but rather an extra wide bottom step as a place to pray. As I quickly approached the bottom of the steps, something sent me flying almost to injury. While falling, I tried to imagine what actually tripped me. The only thing that came to mind was a book bag which may have been leftover from high school choir the day before. I actually managed to stay on my feet but still stumbled for several steps and nearly did the splits. Amid the tumbling and wondering, this “book bag” grunted and apologized. I quickly replied back with a short, “no prob bro” and continued on my way. Needless to say, I felt terrible for kicking a praying man as I’m sure he felt terrible for tripping someone in the dark.

I told the happenings to a friend, and he responded back, “good thing Psalm 119 doesn’t say thy word is a cell phone unto my feet...” I whole headedly agreed and too acknowledged that God does a much better job at lighting our path than does a cell phone. But, sometimes we miss the point of this verse. We get

so excited about the fact that God has provided clarity and visibility for the path of life that we skip over the very source of the light. We can probably all remember back to a time in life when we felt distant from God, and life’s road seemed anything but well lit. Perhaps you’re there now. Let’s be reminded that it is personal time in God’s Word that provides the illumination, not church attendance, hanging out with Christians, or hearing sermons. Obviously, these things will (in many churches) be Bible-based activities, but corporate involvement cannot take the place of personal time with God in His Word.

*In Psalm 119, there are 22 sections—each containing 8 verses and represented by a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Verse 105 is the first verse of the Nun (14th letter) section of Psalm 119. A look at all 8 verses will reveal the desire of the Psalmist to personally know and keep the Scripture. Please note below all references to the Scripture itself in red and all first person pronouns in blue.*

105 Thy **word** is a lamp unto **my** feet, and a light unto **my** path.

106 **I** have sworn, and **I** will perform it, that **I** will keep thy righteous **judgments**.

107 **I** am afflicted very much: quicken **me**, O LORD, according unto thy **word**.

108 Accept, **I** beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach **me** thy **judgments**.

109 **My** soul is continually in **my** hand: yet do **I** not forget thy **law**.

110 The wicked have laid a snare for **me**: yet **I** erred not from thy **precepts**.

111 Thy **testimonies** have **I** taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of **my** heart.

112 **I** have inclined mine heart to perform thy **statutes** always, even unto the end.

# seventeen reasons for GCA



*During a special chapel service on June 2, the members of the class of 2011 shared what the Lord has done for them collectively and as individuals while at Gateway.*

*Following, you will find a compilation of some of the words of testimony and advice they gave to the underclassmen. I have entitled this article, "Seventeen Reasons for Gateway Christian Academy." Read and heed what these young people had to say.*

Derek Cominskie emphasized being "real" for Christ and not just a "fake." "Christianity is not fake; it is the real thing! What the world teaches is fake!"

Taylor Heintz talked about some ups and downs and regrets in his life. He said, "In my Christian life, there've been times when I've been on fire for the Lord, times when I've been cold, and times that I've been lukewarm. The best thing is to be on fire for God!"

Joel Brisbane shared how he was saved during an elementary chapel service at Gateway and encouraged the underclassmen, "Do not pass an opportunity to do good for people. Always do your best for the Lord."

Stuart Cassity encouraged the underclassmen to get involved and do all they can for Christ. He said, "I regret that I did not take advantage of opportunities that were given me." He added, "There is a brotherhood among Christians that we should not take for granted."

Brittani Russ shared all of the injuries and heartaches of her senior year. She told us that through all of these things she had learned to "Rejoice evermore!" and added, "My bad circumstances have brought me closer to God."

Ciara Thompson gave testimony of

being saved after a chapel service in 1st grade and totally surrendering her life to God during her 9th grade year at Gateway. She shared that her heart's desire is that her entire class will keep their commitments to live for God.

Dominique Jean encouraged the underclassmen to not worry so much about what others may think of them. "Live for God" she said, "He's the one you'll ultimately answer to!"

Jordan Cureton reminded the student body that "Every decision you make today will determine what you'll be tomorrow." She also added, "God does not want us to procrastinate!"

Kara Simmons shared with everyone that she was diagnosed with a learning disability several years back. She said there were many times but she learned to claim Philippians 4:13 as her life verse, "I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me."

David Dell gave much credit to his mother for her godly character and sacrifice in raising him and his brother, Daniel. David quoted Colossians 3:1 as his words of advice for the underclassmen; "...seek those things which are above..."

Josh Simmons said, "In junior high, I just wanted to fit in...but, didn't do that anyway." He left the student body with three challenges: 1) work hard; 2) be honest...with God, yourself, and others; 3) treat others with love.

Devin Comenskie spoke from I Corinthians 11:1, where the Apostle Paul says, "Follow me as I follow Christ." Devin apologized for not

being a better role model and added, "Don't be like me. I could have done better. With God's help, I want to do better."

Faith Figueroa shared how she was saved as a K5 student in Mrs. Stabler's class but said it was not until high school that "I determined to really listen in chapel and have a daily walk with God." Faith's admonishment to the other students was simply, "Cling to God!"

Tabitha Greene said she was saved at age 11, but is ashamed of some rebellious times later in her teenage years. She was adamant that "It's not all about you...it's about God!"

Brandon Fredlaw talked about learning to put God first in his life. He encouraged everyone to "get your priorities straight, and stay in the will of God!"

Matthew Mesce recalled how he rededicated his life at the high school retreat at the beginning of his senior year, determining to have a better attitude and a higher level of respect for God and authority. He also added, "Gossip is murder!"

Ryan Deckner encouraged the underclassmen to make important decisions early in life. He said, "Unfortunately, I made the most important decisions my senior year when I should have done so my freshman year." He said, "I was living for today, without caring about the future."

*We give a special thanks and congratulations to the 17 members of the Class of 2011! In the years ahead, may the Lord enable us to see many more "reasons" for Gateway Christian Academy!*

## GGM America

Greetings from Boise! May has been a very exciting month for us. May 1st, I graduated from Gateway Christian College and was ordained that same day. We then moved to North Carolina to spend the month with Sam's parents and prepare for our big move to Boise, Idaho. As many of you know, Samantha is expecting baby Stillman, and we were able to hear his/her heartbeat for the first time this month. What an extra blessing! Our special delivery is scheduled for arrival on November 21st. Also this month, many great churches allowed us to share our Boise ministry with them. We have met some great people.

We recently left for Boise in June after some delays with the moving company. We are excited about the start of our new ministry here with the special people God has given us. Because of some administrative changes, we are no longer serving as associate missionaries in Boise, Idaho; we are now ministering as the senior missionaries here. Please pray for both Samantha and myself as we seek God's guidance in this new role. We are already planning for the future of our church family and for the wisdom to overcome any challenges we may face.

We want to thank all of you who opened your hearts and church doors to my family. Without your support and prayers, this ministry would not be possible. We look forward to the future and seeing what God has in store for GGM in Boise.

Russ and Samantha Stillman

### Prayer Needs

1. New contacts and relationships
2. Evangelistic outreach
3. A part-time job for Russ

# boise & haiti update

## GGM Haiti

It seems that the last days are upon us. The earthquake in Haiti has come and gone and was followed shortly thereafter by an earthquake in Chile. Japan's recent quake and tsunami have been devastating, and tornados have wreaked havoc this spring in our own country with the highest damage and death toll in four decades. The frequency and repetitiveness of these disasters have caused many of us to focus on the signs of the times instead of the many lives and lost souls that still need a savior. God help us if we forget the task at hand.

2 Peter 3:3-4 reads, "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming?" My friends we are there. You should absolutely be concerned for your lost loved ones and friends. We should be active where God has placed us in our witness of Him. The scoffers are prevalent in the media, and the media has a grand influence. Work where you are for the Lord and help send those whom He has called.

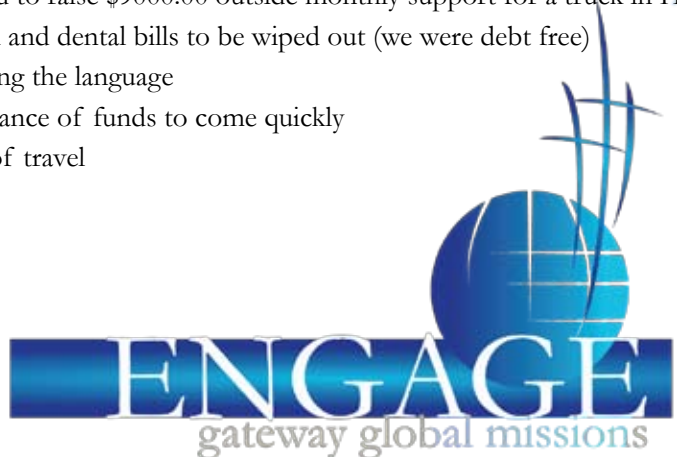
I can't express to you how anxious Sherry and I are to get on with the work in Haiti. We feel like we are in limbo here in the states, as I'm sure most missionaries do. God has given us our mission field, and you, dear Christian, can help get us there.

I mentioned in our last newsletter about my recent trip to Haiti. I was able to make many contacts in regards to the "mechanics" of living there, and I learned a good deal about Haitian commerce. Thankfully, I was able to look past many of the things that shocked me on my original trip there and actually see the mission at hand. I met many pastors and made friends-- hopefully real, sincere friends. The night I preached in that little dirt-floored church and ten souls were saved was definitely the greatest blessing of my trip. If Sherry and I live in Haiti for the rest of our lives and nothing comes together as planned or no one else comes to Christ, the salvation of those ten souls is already a successful mission. We are ready to serve our Savior in Haiti!

Michael and Sherry Wolf  
E-mail: [contact@stirmissions.com](mailto:contact@stirmissions.com)  
Twitter: Michael\_\_Wolf  
Phone: 910 859 0733

### Prayer Needs

1. That we can post photos on the website with our new photo software
2. We need to raise \$9000.00 outside monthly support for a truck in Haiti
3. Medical and dental bills to be wiped out (we were debt free)
4. Mastering the language
5. The balance of funds to come quickly
6. Safety of travel



# The Arrow

GATEWAY FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
5473 Virginia Beach Blvd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462-1743

## A Year in Review

Chip Henley, Director GGM

Gateway Global Missions is now one year old! God has done amazing things in and through GGM. This time last year Gateway began this ministry with six national missionaries in two countries. Since that time, God has added an additional nine national missionaries and two American couples to our GGM team that now spans five countries on three continents. Truly, our God is able to do more than we could ever ask or think.

Thank you for opening your hearts to the needs GGM represents. We have been able to travel to many of your churches and share our heart for world-wide evangelism and discipleship. We are thankful for the prayer and financial support from each of you. Together, we are making a difference.

## Spotlight on a Missionary

Vitalie and Tamara Paunov  
Ceadir Lunga, Moldova



Vitalie and Tamara work with the Russian and Gagauz (Turkish) people in southern Moldova. They are in charge of an outreach medical clinic that offers physical and spiritual help. Vitalie works as a spiritual counselor and Bible study leader for the clinic while his wife works in the medical department. The Paunovs also have the opportunity to lead two other Bible studies throughout the city. Please pray for them as they continue to reach out to the Russian and Gagauz people with the Gospel.



## \$5 Campaign

We are so thankful for the monthly support that is being given for GGM to continue reaching around the globe with the Good News of Jesus Christ. If you have taken a packet of our monthly support envelopes, please do not forget to put them in your church's offering plate or mail them directly to:

Gateway Global Missions  
5473 Virginia Beach Blvd  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

## Our Missionaries

Boise, Idaho	<i>Russ and Samantha Stillman</i>
Haiti	<i>Michael and Sherry Wolf</i>
Croix de Bouquets, Haiti	<i>Gilles Chesnel</i>
Hinche, Haiti	<i>Raymond Orelus</i>
St. Michel, Haiti	<i>Philippe Richarson</i>
Cite' Soleil, Haiti	<i>Numa Mitch</i>
Michoacan, Mexico	<i>Jorge Zacarias</i>
Eurasian Director	<i>Jora Falcianu</i>
Valea Mare, Moldova	<i>Victor Bailuc</i>
Cornesti, Moldova	<i>Victor Labman</i>
Firladeni, Moldova	<i>Slavic Banari</i>
Ceadir Lunga, Moldova	<i>Vitali Paunov</i>
Tvarditsa, Moldova	<i>Ion Iordanov</i>
Aluat, Moldova	<i>Jora Kovach</i>
Baurci, Moldova	<i>Nicolai Ekeysbu</i>

## Our Needs

- \$9,000 for ministry vehicle in Haiti
- monthly support for GGM
- wisdom for future projects

## Praise Item *need met*

Our ministry vehicle in Moldova has been purchased. We are praising the Lord for answering our prayers for this much needed help for the ministry to continue. We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and financial sacrifice on behalf for GGM Eurasia. You made this need a reality!